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TITANIC ANNIVERSARY
EXPECTED TO DRAW BIG
CROWDS TO HRM {page 6}



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News worth sharing.

Hard. Hit



► Rimouski Oceanic forward Francis Beauvillier crashes into the turnbuckle after a hit from Mooseheads right-winger Alexandre Grenier during the third period of Halifax's 5-3 win at the Metro Centre on Thursday night. Beauvillier wasn't seriously injured on the play. Story, page 30.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Mooseheads hold off Oceanic

Expos legend dies at 57

Star catcher Gary Carter had brain tumour {page 31}

'I take responsibility'

Van in inmate escape was flagged: Minister {page 3}

Countdown to Oscar

Thoughts on Billy Crystal, best-picture bets {page 19}

School sale hits court

► Purchase of St. Pat's on hold until ruling



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

The bitter fight over the St. Patrick's-Alexandra School property spilled into court Thursday as lawyers for HRM, three community groups and Jono Developments Ltd. each had their say.

A decision on the fate of the school property was expected by the end of the day, but Nova Scotia Supreme Court Justice Michael Wood said he will reserve his decision and didn't give an expected date.

Mick Ryan, Jono's lawyer, said the developer is the innocent victim, being squeezed by both sides. He promised a "mammoth" lawsuit if the deal doesn't go forward.

"They've been laid out, stripped naked and laid bare to the sunshine," Ryan said in court, referring to the private application Jono filed to HRM that is now a matter of public record in court documents.

Ron Pink is the lawyer for the three community groups that lost

the bid for the property — the North End Community Health Association, Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Society and the Richard Preston Centre for Excellence Society.

He cried foul Thursday that Jono's bid — reportedly \$3 million — was under the appraised value of \$4.3 million.

He also said council broke its charter because a less-than-market-value sale requires a two-thirds vote in favour, but council voted 13-10 to sell the property.

"This is the council that does nothing right," he told the court.

HRM's lawyer, Jocelyn Campbell, showed documents that two of the community groups knew about the school's availability for sale in 2010.

"They had lots of advance knowledge and they knew what was going on," she said.

If the courts stay the sale much longer Jono could sue or walk away, leaving HRM with the second bid worth much less. Plus, there's the loss of property taxes and the costs of operating the building, she said.

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Sheriff van needed upgrades: Landry

- ▶ Prisoner Thomas Arnold Jones free for hours before turning himself in
- ▶ Faces new charges of escaping lawful custody, property damage



The sheriff's van Thomas Arnold Jones escaped from had been flagged for needing security upgrades in December, Justice Minister Ross Landry revealed on Thursday.

Jones, 48, is alleged to have kicked out the back window of the van transporting him to Dartmouth provincial court on Wednesday morning, before escaping out while the van was driving along Highway 111. He then managed to elude Halifax Regional Police for four hours before turning himself in.

On Dec. 15, a Department of Justice review into an incident in Cape Breton revealed the province's 20 sheriffs' vans had an issue with windows.

Landry said Wednesday's incident "reinforces" the need for security upgrades.

"We were already looking to upgrade (for the vans)," Landry said.

"The issue around putting bars on (the window) came up from a past year ... That was already in the process, and what happened (Wednesday) just reinforces the fact that that's the right step to be taking."



▶ A police K-9 unit searches homes on Stephen Street in Dartmouth on Wednesday in the hunt for an escaped prisoner. Inset: Thomas Arnold Jones.

When asked why offenders were still being transported in vans with such deficiencies, Landry said the department had assurances from the manufacturer the windows could withstand such an attack.

"Our understanding of the specs was that the window could withstand physical pressure," he said. "But it was a matter of how do we upgrade to another level and that was in

the process.

A new sheriff's van, with heightened security features, is expected by the end of March. It will add to the current complement of vans, including the one from the incident on Wednesday.

Landry said he takes responsibility for the incident, and has ordered an internal review of exactly how Jones, clad in cowboy boots and leg shackles, escaped.



"If security was not to the level it was supposed to be, as I said, I'm not here to defend that. I take responsibility for that."

JUSTICE MINISTER ROSS LANDRY

Opposition becomes critical of justice minister

Opposition critics are calling Justice Minister Ross Landry "incompetent" after it was revealed his department flagged security issues in sheriffs' vans two months ago.

Liberal Justice Critic Michel Samson said he feels it's "almost unbelievable" that Thomas Arnold Jones could kick out the back window of a sheriff's van, with two sheriffs present, and escape while wearing leg shackles.

"The fact that the province is now admitting that they knew there were deficiencies with the vans begs the question (of) why did it take so long," Samson said on Thursday.

"Once again, this seems to be a department and a minister that seems happy to wait to react to a situation, rather than being proactive and making sure proper security protocols are in place."

The security issues surrounding the vans' windows was identified on Dec. 15, 2011. According to the department, work on reinforcing the windows with metal bars was to begin next week.

"To wait until someone actually kicks the window out and escapes is just the very definition of incompetence," Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie said. "If there's one thing we expect the minister of justice to ensure, it's public safety."

● ALEX BOUTILIER

1

news


When a 17-year-old boy got the green light for a gastric bypass, he didn't hesitate, despite some drastic changes required. Scan the code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

A Nigerian man who tried to blow up a packed flight with a bomb hidden in his underwear has been sentenced to life in prison. Video at metronews.ca

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Transit strike good for your health?

► Experts say positive health effects of walking to work include decreased abdominal obesity, lower chance of diabetes and lower cholesterol ► Strike entering Day 16 on Friday



**JENNIFER
TAPLIN**
@METRONEWS.CA

Thousands of people have been forced to walk to work for more than two weeks now — could this be a positive health impact of the transit strike?

Experts say in the short term, the bus strike is grounds for positive physical activity, but it's unlikely folks will keep up the good habit when the buses are back on the roads.

"A habit isn't really formed by emergencies, so I don't think we can consider that it will result in people to keep walking unless we promote it in other ways," said Jo Welch, professor in the School of Health and Human Performance at Dalhousie University. "People don't respond to health benefits in terms of active commuting but they do respond to things like messages that say 'no more parking hassles.'"

If advertisements and messages on the benefits of walking to work are put out now, then commuters might continue to walk after the strike is over, she said.

But in the meantime, walkers may already discover they've shed a few

Cutting calories

The amount of calories burned by a 150-pound person walking at a moderate pace, according to pro-health.com.

- 15 minutes – 59 calories
- 30 minutes – 118.39 calories
- 45 minutes – 177 calories
- 60 minutes – 236 calories
- 90 minutes – 355 calories
- 120 minutes – 473 calories

pounds, thanks to the labour disruption.

"If they're very unfit, they may still be tired and achy from having to do all the extra activity, but I would expect by the third week they'll be able to walk more sprightly and not be as tired at the end," Welch said.

Caroline Carr, team leader for the Chebucto Community Health Team, said the bus strike would need to hit the one-month mark for people to really start seeing health benefits.

"If they stop doing it as soon as the bus strike is over, then anything they would have gained they will lose within a month of going back to their old lifestyle."

And they're likely experi-



► Tim Sanford walks across the MacDonald Bridge to his Dartmouth home on Thursday. Sanford has been walking home since the transit strike started.

Forced walking commute

On his way home from work on Thursday, Tim

Sanford said the forced walking commute over the bridge is getting easier.

"This has caused me to lose five pounds in the last week and I'd like to keep going," he said.

● JENNIFER TAPLIN

On Twitter



We asked those walking because of the transit strike how long it takes them to get to work.

- @HFXMermaid: an hour to walk to work. Begging for rides every day to get home, been sick and it's cold/wet
- @kristina_ellen: 40 minutes walking, uphill to get to work. Can't wait for #transit-strike to end.
- @EastCoastKnits: 25 minutes on a good day, 30 or more on a bad day (messy sidewalks, random leg cramps) #transitstrike #halifax
- @Sweetb: 15-20 minutes. I walk up citadel hill too n good exercise.
- @mickeymaclean: it takes me an hour and a half to walk to work it's good exercise tho !
- @RachelSmith81: It takes me about 30 minutes to walk to work, but that is my only option without access to a bus.
- @KristieSmith: I walk 45 minutes to get to school, and it's all uphill #ukings #dalhousie
- @PianoRebelXS: about an hour each way (12km round trip)
- @doctordestro: Sure I can walk to work (I'm fortunate it's only 10 mins) but that's about all I can do. Work-home-work home ad nauseum
- @dirtyrich: about an hour and a half, from Clayton Park, when I'm unable to hitch a ride. Ugh.

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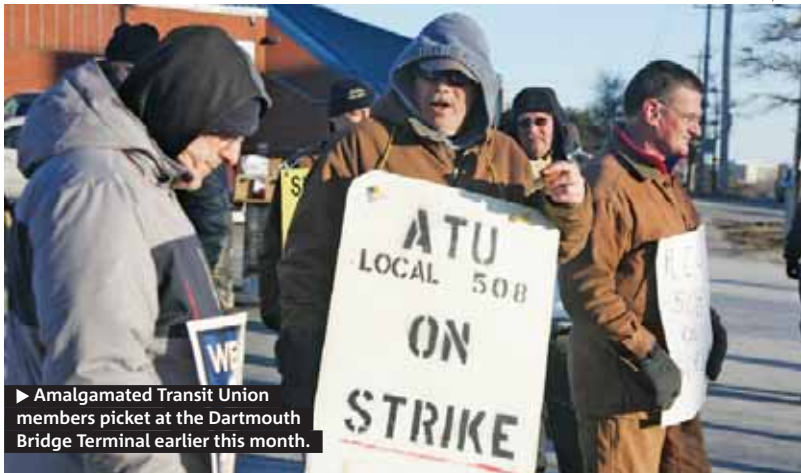


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RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



► Amalgamated Transit Union members picket at the Dartmouth Bridge Terminal earlier this month.

Union 'considering blockading' Access-A-Buses: Wilson

► HRM says it will begin offering limited service Monday



PHILIP
CROUCHER
@METRONEWS.CA

The president of the union for striking transit workers said Thursday they're "considering blockading" Access-A-Buses from getting back on the road next week.

The municipality announced Wednesday it will begin offering limited bus service on Monday to people who are registered Access-A-Bus users for transportation to and from medical and special appointments.

"I'm not sure yet, but that's what we're discussing throughout the day today," Ken Wilson, presi-

dent of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508, said about setting up a blockade.

"I'm concerned about passenger safety," he then added when asked why he might take this step. "I don't know how the public is going to feel about inexperienced, unqualified people operating these buses.... But let me be crystal clear. If we block the buses, we'll be blocking them from leaving the garage. If they leave the garage, I will not be blocking the public from getting on them."

HRM is estimating the service will provide about 35 per cent of the roughly 500 trips a day normally provided to people with

"To be honest, I think it's a safety issue."

KEN WILSON, PRESIDENT OF
AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION
LOCAL 508

disabilities. Metro Transit management would be the ones operating the buses, a release from HRM states.

"I am concerned about what the public will think (of the blockade), but at the same time we are prepared to put everything back on the road today when we offered binding arbitration on Tuesday," Wilson said. "There was a good likelihood there would've been full service on the road today."

Kelly not commenting on report

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Mayor Peter Kelly is refusing to comment on a report in a local alt-weekly that suggests he has neglected duties as executor of a Halifax woman's will.

Kelly did not return numerous requests for an interview on Thursday. But the Mayor's office said early in the afternoon he will not take questions on the matter.

Kelly's lawyer, Harry Thompson, was out of province and did not respond to requests for an interview.

A report appearing in The Coast on Thursday identified Kelly as the executor of Mary Thibeault's estate, estimated to be worth \$500,000. Thibeault died in December 2004, but according to The Coast, several of Thibeault's heirs have not received their due.



► Peter Kelly

The alt-weekly also reported Kelly made out cheques to himself and his son from Thibeault's account totalling \$115,000 — which were later reversed by Thibeault's bank.

According to Nova Scotia's Probate Act, which governs the handling of wills, an executor has to notify beneficiaries within

30 days from taking over the estate. An affidavit of service must be filed within 60 days, and an inventory of the deceased's possessions at time of death must be filed within 90 days.

There are currently no criminal investigations into the mishandling of a will in Nova Scotia — and such investigations are rare, according to Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter.

"The last call (the financial crime unit) received concerning any issue regarding a will was about two years ago, and it didn't rise to the level of a report being taken," Palmeter said.

"Generally speaking, the probate court handles most of these and they are, in most cases, civil in nature." ● ALEX BOUTLIER

Capital Health employees reject offer, plan strike vote

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

The union that represents about 3,800 workers at Nova Scotia's largest health board has filed for conciliation and plans to hold a strike vote.

The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union Local 42, which represents employees of the Capital District Health Authority, says it can't accept the employer's latest offer.

In a statement, the union says the wage offer falls behind cost-of-living increases.

"It leaves us no option but to go to the next step in the process," NSGEU president Joan Jessome

said in a release Thursday.

The provincial government has said it needs to hold wage increases to one per cent a year as part of its deficit-reduction plan.

The local includes health workers in Halifax and Hants County, including nurses, occupational therapists, paramedics and social workers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Joan
Jessome

CUPE, water commission to resume talks

Halifax Water and workers with CUPE Local 227 have agreed to return to the bargaining table in hopes of averting a strike.

No timetable was given, but a release says the two sides will meet with a conciliator from the Department of Labour at the earliest available date.

Halifax Water workers are in a legal strike position and could hit the picket line with 48 hours notice.

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Titanic events to draw global audience

► Province expecting visitors from around the world

JON TATTIE
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

The 100th anniversary of the Titanic sinking means Halifax is set to be one of the world's top tourist destinations in 2012.

Titanic famously struck an iceberg in April 1912 just south of the Grand Banks in the North Atlantic. Much of the rescue effort was launched from Halifax, and many of the victims were buried here. CNN, Lonely Planet and Fox have all named Halifax a must-see destination this spring.

At a media launch at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on Thursday, the province and HRM unveiled their plans.

Ken Pinto, executive director of Titanic 100, has

said he has been entrusted with \$200,000 for the commemoration. The province would not say how much it was budgeting.

Part of the money will be spent on a wake/walk April 14, on what Pinto calls "Titanic Eve," and then a "Night of the Bells" timed with the Titanic hitting an iceberg early April 15.

"We're planning to have several churches ring their bells at 12:20 a.m. Then all the ships in the harbour will sound their horns," he said.

Fireworks or flares will be deployed to mirror the Titanic firing off rescue flares.

A wreath-laying ceremony at the Fairview cemetery will follow in the daytime. Pinto was vague on details and spoke more of what he hopes will happen.

Halifax events

- **April 7:** Titanic Film Symposium
- **April 9:** Titanic seminar
- **April 7-15:** Titanic Commemorative Wake Festival
- **April 14:** Titanic Interfaith conference
- **April 15:** Titanic Night of the Bells
- **April 15:** Titanic Centennial Spiritual Ceremony
- **Sept. 9 to 21:** Titanic film festival
- **Sept. 22:** Titanic Celtic Transatlantic Signature Concert
- **Sept. 21 to 23:** Titanic World Conference

Eventually, Pinto wants to build a 25-foot model Titanic to put in Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

He was joined by provincial Tourism Minister Percy Paris, HRM's Deputy Mayor Bill Karsten and Halifax MLA Leonard Preyra.

Mainstay Titanic sites in



► Volunteers John Green, left, and Gerald Wright construct a scale model of RMS Titanic at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax on Thursday.

Halifax are the museum's display of artifacts, the Fairview cemetery and a

few sites connected to the 1997 film Titanic.

"Hopefully that will gen-

erate tourist dollars for years, because Titanic never goes away," Pinto said.

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Parking ban a possibility

Drivers may have to get their cars off the road on Friday night.

The municipality issued a release Thursday saying the forecast of a possible five to 10 centimetres of snow could see the overnight winter-parking ban put into effect

between 1 and 6 a.m. on Saturday.

HRM says it is watching the system and will advise by mid-afternoon on Friday whether the ban will go into effect that night.

The forecast is also saying rain is a possibility.

● METRO

Order of Nova Scotia

The deadline for nominations for the 2012 Order of Nova Scotia is Friday, March 16.

The Order of Nova Scotia is the highest honour awarded by the province. All Nova Scotians are encouraged to consider nominating or renominating someone who has made an impact on their community and their province. This award is about people who value people.

Information and nomination forms are available in a number of ways:



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News in brief

Armed man holds up bank

QUINPOOL ROAD. Police say a man armed with a gun and sporting a black ski mask held up the TD Bank on Quinpool Road on Thursday night.

Halifax Regional Police say at about 8 p.m., a man entered the store with a handgun, ordered staff and customers to the floor and fled the scene with an unknown amount of money.

There were no injuries, with police saying in a release issued at 10:30 p.m. that the suspect remained at large. **● METRO**

Faculty strike vote incomplete

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY. A spokesperson with the faculty association at Dal-

housie University said Thursday a tally of the ballots from a strike vote taken this week by professors wasn't complete.

Communications officer Karen Janigan said that when it's finished it will be released first to its membership and then to the university and media.

The vote took place Monday through Wednesday.

The association represents 870 professors, instructors, librarians and counsellors at the province's largest university.

The group's contract with the administration expired June 30. **● METRO**

Skabar backing Mulcair for NDP

LEADERSHIP RACE. Cumberland North MLA Brian Skabar will be supporting Montreal MP Thomas Mulcair when federal New Democrats gather in Toronto this spring to select a new leader. **AMHERST DAILY NEWS**

Former military officer to become lieutenant-governor

► John James Grant to be sworn in, in the coming days

A retired brigadier-general in the Canadian Armed Forces has been named Nova Scotia's lieutenant-governor.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the appointment of John James Grant on Thursday.

Grant joined the Pictou Highlanders in 1951 and went on to serve in a number of senior positions including deputy commander and area commander of the Atlantic Militia Area. He retired from the military in 1989.

Premier Darrell Dexter welcomed the announcement, saying Grant is a strong community volunteer who has done the military proud.

"He has represented Nova Scotia proudly through-



► Prime Minister Stephen Harper introduces retired brigadier-general John James Grant as lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia in Ottawa on Thursday.

out his career and his life in Pictou County," Dexter said in a statement.

"His service to Canada will continue in his new role, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated Nova Scotian as the province's next lieutenant-governor."

Grant replaces Mayann E. Francis, who became the province's first black lieutenant-governor in September 2006.

Grant was born in New Glasgow in 1936 and has been active in a number of community organizations, among them the New

'Sterling character'

► Defence Minister Peter MacKay, who represents the federal riding of Central Nova, described John James Grant as someone with "sterling character, strong work ethic, dedication and commitment to excellence."

► "He and his family are the embodiment of public service, and I have every confidence they will continue to represent the very best human qualities of our province," MacKay said in a statement.

● METRO

Glasgow Police Commission, the Nova Scotia Army Cadet League and the Downtown Development Association in his hometown.

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NEW GLASGOW

Killer of cab driver has parole revoked

A man convicted of murdering a cab driver in 1998 has had his parole revoked after being questioned in a high-profile police investigation.

Chris Falconer, 29, arrested Nov. 9 for a parole violation in New Glasgow, had his parole revoked by the Parole Board of Canada on Tuesday. According to a report prepared by the National Parole Board, Falconer's parole was revoked because his "ability to cope with parole became unmanageable. 'Eventually, given your history, developments surrounding an ongoing investigation by police led them

to interview you as you were initially considered a person of interest and later a suspect," it was stated in the report.

It stated because of these circumstances Falconer's "risk is no longer manageable" and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Falconer was asked during his post-suspension parole interview if he understood the reason for his suspension. It stated in the report that Falconer said, "it was all over the news."

At the time of his arrest, RCMP and New Glasgow Police Force were investigating two unrelated homicides: Amber Kirwan, 19, of New Glasgow and Eddie Phalen, 44, of Trenton. Those investigations are still ongoing. However, police have not confirmed any connection between Falconer and the two homicides. **NEW GLASGOW NEWS**

Complaint against priest at rehab centre investigated

BRIAN LAZZURI/ANTIGONISH CASSET



► Rev. Paul Abbass

► **Diocese says in statement it will co-operate with police, province**

Police and province are looking into a complaint against a priest who headed up a rehabilitation centre for addicts in Cape Breton.

Officials with Talbot House said Thursday that Rev. Paul Abbass has taken a leave of absence from his position as executive director of the facility, but offered no details on the nature of the complaint.

The board of directors said in a statement it is investigating the complaint, which it became aware of through the province's Department of Community Services on Feb. 2.

"It is an unfortunate and challenging situation for all involved," John Gainer, Talbot House board chairman, said in the statement.

Concerns raised

- Cape Breton police spokeswoman Desiree Vassallo said someone from Talbot House raised concerns with them this week about one of their employees.
- She said officers are looking into the matter to see if there are grounds for a criminal investigation.

"The health and welfare of the residents is a primary concern for the board."

In an interview, Gainer would not reveal any details about the nature of the complaint involving Abbass, who had served as executive director for about 15 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HUSKY QUARANTINED

Family dog kills baby near Calgary

A family dog has killed a newborn baby boy in a community just north of Calgary.

RCMP said the infant was attacked Wednesday morning inside the family's home in Airdrie.

The boy was taken to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary with traumatic injuries and died

12 hours later.

"It is a sad case all around," said RCMP Sgt. Patricia Neely.

"The investigation has been conducted by the RCMP and there is absolutely no indication of negligence on behalf of the family.... The pet has no previous history of aggression or violence and this was completely unexpected."

The dog, a husky, is being quarantined until the family and bylaw officers decide whether it should be destroyed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-Degrassi actor mourned

Degrassi creator Linda Schuyler expressed condolences Thursday as word emerged that actor Neil Hope, who played Derek "Wheels" Wheeler on the long-running youth series, apparently died five years ago without any public announcement.

It wasn't clear why his death had not been report-

ed previously, but a spokeswoman for Epitome Pictures, which produced the award-winning series, said castmates had lost track of the former star. THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Neil Hope

Feds target 'bogus' refugees

► New bill includes biometric ID, limits to appeals

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Immigration Minister Jason Kenney

The Conservative government is using its majority to once again overhaul the refugee system to reduce what it considers to be bogus claims.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney tabled legislation in the House of Commons on Thursday that reverses some key concessions the Tories made to the opposition two years ago in order to pass the Balanced Refugee Reform Act through a minority Parliament.

This new legislation, called the Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act, more closely resembles the original refugee bill as tabled by the Tories, before any concessions.

But Kenney says a glut of refugee claims from the European Union has forced the government to adopt even tougher measures.

"We worked with the op-

position in good faith and we ended up with a bill that was a huge improvement over the status quo," he said Thursday. "But we have a serious problem. We're facing a large wave of unfounded asylum claims coming from the European Union in particular. The only tool we have to address that now is the imposition of a visa. That hurts Canada's commercial, diplomat-

ic interests. It hurts the tourism industry. We need other tools to address it."

Canada is close to inking a free-trade agreement with the European Union. The Czech Republic has threatened to hold up the deal if Canada does not get rid of a visa requirement it slapped on Czech citizens in 2009.

The new legislation would give the federal immigration minister final say

Appeals curbed

► Refugees from safe countries whose claims are rejected will no longer be permitted to appeal the decision to the Immigration and Refugee Board. They are allowed to appeal to the board under the current legislation.

► All rejected claimants can still appeal to the Federal Court, but they can be kicked out of the country while they wait for a ruling.

over which countries are considered safe and which are not.

"Our generous asylum system has been abused by people making bogus refugee claims," Kenney said. "Our government is very concerned about the recent increase in refugee claims from democratic countries that respect human rights."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man convicted in cup riot gets 17 months

The first person convicted in Vancouver's Stanley Cup riot was sentenced Thursday to 17 months in jail after admitting to joining the mob that left a path of destruction throughout the city's downtown core.

Ryan Dickinson, 20, pleaded guilty to participating in a riot, as well as breaching bail conditions from an unrelated assault charge.

He admitted to using a road barricade and a newspaper box to damage an unmarked police car, and then later tossing a mannequin and a newspaper box at the window of a clothing store several

blocks away.

The Crown had asked for as much as 18 months in jail, arguing that everyone who participated that night must be punished for all of the damage the riot caused, regardless of their individual level of involvement.

The Crown labelled Dickinson an "instigator," casting him as an angry young man who appeared on video presented in court to be enjoying the violence.

Provincial court judge Malcolm MacLean rejected Dickinson's suggestion that he was merely "caught up in the moment."

"Mr. Dickinson's partici-



► Rioters break the front doors of a Sears store during the riot following Game 7 of the NHL Stanley Cup final in Vancouver last June.

GEOFF HOWE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

pation was serious and involved a number of conscious and deliberate decisions on his part, starting with his decision to go downtown knowing it was a beach of his bail," MacLean said.

Dickinson's lawyer said the young man was the product of a troubled upbringing in a broken home, and he said his client was remorseful and is looking to turn his life around.

So far, police have recommended charges against a total of 125 people, but Crown counsel has only approved charges against 47.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Vikileaks' may have Commons link

The Twitter stunt that revealed sleazy details about Public Safety Minister Vic Toews' acrimonious divorce proceedings appears to have emanated from the House of Commons.

In an investigation, the Ottawa Citizen traced the Internet Protocol address

attached to the Wikileaks30 Twitter account to a Commons computer.

The newspaper also discovered the IP address is attached to a House em-

ployee who edits Wikipedia articles "often giving them what appears to be a pro-NDP bias."

Wikileaks30's Twitter postings began in earnest Tuesday night, an uber-

public response to the Internet surveillance legislation — Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act — tabled by Toews.

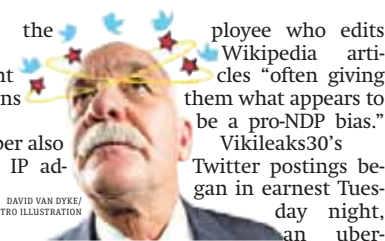
Tweets divulged Toews' alleged infidelities while married to Lorraine Fehr, whom he divorced in 2010.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Patient gets wish

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres granted would-be lung transplant patient Hélène Campbell's wish Thursday morning by talking about organ donation, but went a step further with a surprise interview via Skype from her set in Los Angeles.

Campbell was so surprised she had to ask her mom to increase her oxygen tank's flow to help her breathe. The 20-year-old has idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and only has 24 per cent lung capacity. She is waiting for a double lung transplant. ●METRO



DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO ILLUSTRATION

Pricey. Property

► People walk out the entrance of 15 Central Park West in New York. The family of a Russian billionaire has bought the penthouse apartment for \$88 million US.



RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Aiming sky-high in N.Y.

The Wall Street Journal says the property on Central Park West is now the most expensive apartment in the city. The seller was Sanford I. Weill, the former head of Citigroup. It was bought by a trust for the daughter of fertilizer tycoon Dmitry Rybolovlev.

Real estate crash haunts Spain

► Economic downturn has left ghost towns in its wake across the country

Towering apartment blocks, complete with swimming pools and playgrounds, loom over empty streets, weed-filled lots and gaping excavation pits. The lone bank in this mega-development, nicknamed "Manhattan," closed two years ago and most storefronts are bricked up.

Apartments galore are for sale here and prices are plunging.

More than 13,000 apartments were supposed to go up to create a mini-city for 30,000 people just 45 minutes outside of Madrid. But only 5,100 were built, many are uninhabited and regular Spaniards who bought them as investments are now competing to offload them for huge losses.

Spain's real estate crash and economic implosion have turned what was sup-

posed to become a vibrant suburban paradise for young Spanish couples and their children into one of the most visible monuments of the country's boom gone bust. Such modern-day ghost towns have become a familiar part of the Spanish landscape, abandoned shells left to slowly decay.

The number of foreclosure proceedings skyrocketed during the economic crisis. Nearly 530,000 were granted by courts from 2008 through September of 2011, most to banks taking homes, housing developments and vast tracts of land for residential and commercial real estate projects that may never become reality.

The banks were ordered this month by the recently elected centre-right government to set aside bil-



PAUL WHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► A thistle grows in front of apartment blocks in Sesena, Spain. What was supposed to be a vibrant mini-city has since turned into a ghost development due to Spain's struggling economy.

lions of additional euros to cover these toxic real estate assets valued at \$232 billion US just as Spain teeters on the edge of what could be a lengthy recession.

In Sesena and other ghost developments around Spain, some banks are already trying to un-

load finished apartments at discounts of up to 50 per cent of their original prices. But that's hurting untold numbers of Spaniards who invested savings and took out big loans to buy property they thought they'd be able to rent or sell for a higher price. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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► Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond arrives for a meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron, in Edinburgh, Scotland on Thursday.

SCOTT HEPPLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Stay with us Scots: British PM

► Leader hints at greater powers for country if it remains a part of U.K.

England and Scotland work "so much better together" than apart, British Prime Minister David Cameron said Thursday, as he appealed to Scots not to break up the United King-

dom by voting for independence.

In a speech in Edinburgh before talks on the ground rules for a referendum, Cameron said Britain was "a warm and stable

home that billions elsewhere envy" — and dangled the prospect of more autonomy for Scotland if it chose not to leave.

"I believe in the United Kingdom," Cameron said. "I'm a unionist — head, heart and soul."

"Of course Scotland could govern itself. So could England. But we do it so much better together."

Cameron was in the Scottish capital for his first meeting on the issue with Scottish leader Alex Salmond, whose separatist party has long campaigned for Scotland to leave its neighbours behind for the first time in more than 300 years.

Salmond is seeking to hold an independence referendum in September 2014, hoping that a separation from London would

"Of course Scotland could govern itself. So could England. But we do it so much better together."

PRIME MINISTER OF BRITAIN
DAVID CAMERON

be completed with a May 2016 election for the Scottish Parliament.

However, with opinion polls showing that only about a third of Scots favour splitting the nation, Cameron and other opponents are pressing for the vote to be held earlier.

They also want a straight "yes or no" question rather than a third option, suggested by Salmond, of increased autonomy short of outright independence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Newton's knowledge hits the net

SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Librarian Alexander Gordin presents parts of Sir Isaac Newton's newly digitized theological collection, Thursday.

He's considered to be one of the greatest scientists of all time. But Sir Isaac Newton was also an influential theologian who applied a scientific approach to the study of scripture, Hebrew and Jewish mysticism.

Now Israel's national library, an unlikely owner of a vast trove of Newton's writings, has digitized his theological collection — some 7,500 pages in Newton's own handwriting — and put it online. Among the yellowed texts are Newton's famous prediction of the apocalypse in 2060.

Newton revolutionized physics, mathematics and astronomy in the 17th and 18th century, laying the foundations for most of classical mechanics — with the principal of universal gravitation and the three laws of motion bearing his name.

However, the curator of Israel's national library's humanities collection said Newton was also a devout Christian who dealt far more in theology than he did in physics and believed

that scripture provided a "code" to the natural world.

Today, we tend to make a distinction between science and faith, but to Newton it was all part of the same world," said Milka Levy-Rubin. "He believed that careful study of holy texts was a type of science, that if analyzed correctly could predict what was to come."

So he learned how to read Hebrew, scrolled through the Bible and delved into the study of Jewish philosophy, the mysticism of Kabbalah and the Talmud — a compendium of Jewish oral law and stories about 1,500 years old.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Underwear bomber' gets life sentence

► Case stirred fears that terrorists could still attack an American jetliner more than eight years after 9-11

Defiantly declaring "a day of victory," a Nigerian man was given a mandatory life sentence Thursday for trying to blow up a packed jetliner with a bomb sewn into his underwear.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was the same remorseless man who four months ago pleaded guilty to all charges related to Northwest Airlines Flight 253.

The 25-year-old, European-educated son of a wealthy banker, Abdulmutallab tried to set off the bomb minutes before the Amsterdam-to-Detroit flight landed.

Had the bomb not fizzled, nearly 300 people aboard the flight would probably have been killed.

Before Thursday's sentencing, four passengers and a crew member from



► Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab

the flight told U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds that they have struggled to live and travel normally since the incident on Christmas Day 2009.

Life in prison is a "just punishment for what he has done," the judge said. "The defendant poses a significant ongoing threat to the safety of American citizens everywhere."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunmen storm Nigerian prison

Armed gunmen from a radical Islamist sect stormed a federal prison in Nigeria amid heavy gunfire and explosions, killing one guard and freeing 119 inmates in an

assault marking its growing national ambitions, officials said Thursday.

The sect known as Boko Haram claimed it freed seven followers in the attack that happened Wednesday evening in the town of Koton-Karifi, just south of Nigeria's capital Abuja. Though authorities declined to say the attack was the work of the group, it mirrored another massive prison break

orchestrated by the sect in 2010.

The gunmen blasted through the prison's gate with a bomb and killed one guard in a firefight, officials said. Those inside the prison escaped in the fighting, though authorities had recaptured about 25 of them by late Thursday afternoon, local prison official Hadiza Aminu said.

The government said

an investigation had begun into the attack.

Wednesday night's attack matched one Boko Haram launched in Bauchi state in September 2010 that freed about 700 inmates there. The sect spokesman said Thursday night attacks would continue until Nigeria's weak federal government releases all its detained members.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Thailand. Arrests



► Thai immigration officers escort detained Iranian Mohammad Kharzei, right, at the immigration headquarters in Bangkok on Thursday.

SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plot targeted diplomats

Kharzei and two fellow Iranians arrested after accidentally setting off an explosives cache in Bangkok were planning to attack Israeli diplomats, Thailand's police chief said Thursday.

Nothing but screams

► Trapped in burning Honduras prison, inmates were helpless as fire spread through facility

Two of the bodies were found facing one another in a large sink, their remains completely blackened. Others were squished together in the prison bathroom where they had sought refuge from the flames, their bodies an indistinguishable mass.

If not for a split-second decision, Hector Daniel Martinez could have also died horrifically in the

355 In all, the fire at an overcrowded prison in Honduras killed 355 people, the country's attorney general's office said Thursday, making it the world's deadliest prison fire in a century.

deadliest prison fire in at least a century.

When the flames started

in the Honduras farm prison, north of the capital of Tegucigalpa, Martinez had been asleep in a small metal bed, one of dozens stacked so high in a narrow barrack that they nearly touched the roof.

The fire raced above Martinez's head, and he could hear the screams of prisoners.

Martinez ran toward the barrack's only entrance.

The door was locked. Most of the other 135 prisoners in the room ran toward the other end, where there was a bathroom with water and sinks.

It turned out to be a fatal choice for the others. Martinez survived after a nurse came with the keys and opened the door. He was only one of 28 inside the barrack who did.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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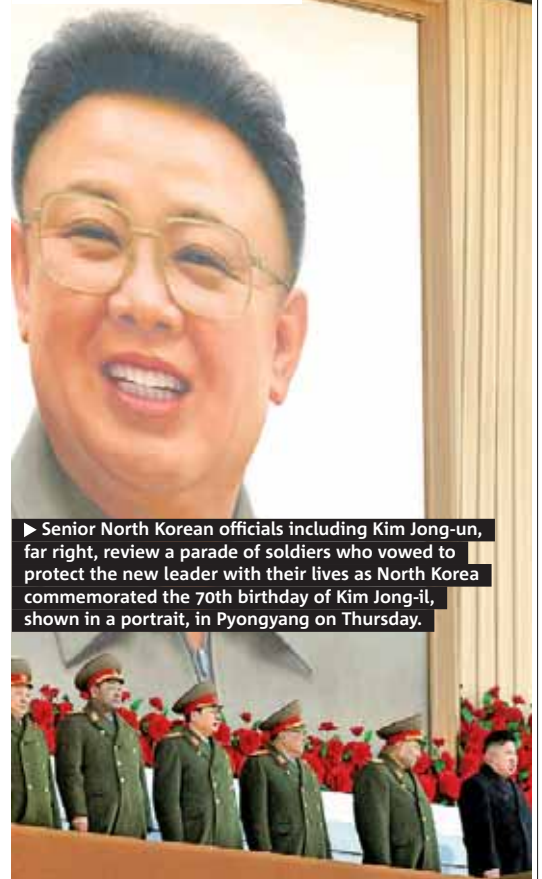
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North Korea. Ceremony



► Senior North Korean officials including Kim Jong-un, far right, review a parade of soldiers who vowed to protect the new leader with their lives as North Korea commemorated the 70th birthday of Kim Jong-il, shown in a portrait, in Pyongyang on Thursday.

KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Love for father, love for son

Mock Putin news report takes web by storm

A fake news report placing Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in the dock has become an online hit, getting nearly three million views in just three days.

The digitally altered clip posted on YouTube this week uses news footage of the 2010 trial of former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodor-

kovsky, but the conceit is that Putin is on trial instead of the businessman.

The prosecution of Khodorkovsky, which began with his arrest in 2003, is widely seen as retaliation for challenging Putin's power.

Putin, who was Russia's president from 2000 to 2008, is facing an outburst of public discontent as he runs for a third term in a March 4 presidential election he is widely expected to win.

The video is called The Arrest of Vladimir Putin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN condemns Syrian regime

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon accused the Syrian regime of committing "almost certain" crimes against humanity Thursday as activists reported fresh violence and the arrest of several prominent dissidents.

Speaking to reporters in Vienna, Ban demanded the Syrian regime stop using indiscriminate force against civilians caught up in fighting between government troops and President Bashar Assad's opponents.

"We see neighbourhoods shelled indiscriminately," Ban said.

Syrian activists said government forces attacked Daraa on Thursday, carrying out arrests and shooting randomly in the city where the uprising against Assad erupted 11 months ago. They also reported intense clashes between

"Hospitals used as torture centres. Children as young as 10 years old jailed and abused. We see almost certain crimes against humanity."

UN SECRETARY GENERAL
BAN KI-MOON

army defectors and government troops in the central province of Hama.

The push into Daraa followed sieges on the rebellious cities of Homs and Hama and appears to be part of an effort by the regime to extinguish major pockets of dissent.

The Local Coordination Committees, a group of activists, said dozens of people were killed throughout the country Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi-Syrian gun trade alive and well

► Weapons smuggling on the rise during Syrian uprising: Mosul police

The rifles are first taken apart and hidden in cigarette cartons and kerosene tanks. Younis al-Lehaibi and his sons then divide them into their trucks and head out to Iraq's vast, dusty border with Syria. Their objective: to smuggle weapons to Syrian rebels who seek the overthrow of President Bashar Assad.

It's a turnaround from the height of the Iraqi war six years ago, when weapons and fighters would cross from Syria to aid fellow Sunnis in Iraq.

Until a month ago, al-Lehaibi said, it wasn't worth the effort. There wasn't much profit in smuggling Kalashnikov rifles, known as AK-47s. The

\$1,000

An AK-47 usually sells for \$200, but their newfound demand has encouraged dealers to raise the price to \$700. Smuggler Younis al-Lehaibi makes a profit by charging \$1,000.

Syrian rebels had all the weapons they needed.

The spike in demand likely reflects how Syria's uprising, as it approaches its first complete year, has transformed into an outright clash of forces as the opposition turns more to armed action.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► In this image provided by Local Coordination Committees in Syria, anti-Syrian-regime activist Khaled Abu-Salah stands in front of flames and black smoke from a bombed oil pipeline in Baba Amr, central Syria.



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or have any physical changes on the surface of the skin, so they can have a procedure and carry on with their normal activities.

Baxter says there is some redness after the procedure, but that only lasts for about an hour.

Besides Ultherapy, Atlantic Skin Care also offers services such as facial rejuvenation using BBL (broadband light) phototherapy, laser hair removal, Botox, tissue fillers, chemical peels and removal of unwanted facial or leg veins.

OPEN HOUSE FEB. 21

People looking to learn more about Ultherapy and the services offered at Atlantic Skin Care should attend its open house on Feb. 21, from 5 to 9 p.m. Atlantic Skin Care is located at 46 Portland St. and its website is atlanticskincare.com.

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PENSION PROGRAMS

Budget watchdog defends OAS stance

Canada's budget watchdog is firing back at critics who have accused him of flip-flopping in declaring public pension programs sustainable.

In a letter to MPs and senators posted on the Parliamentary Budget Office web page, Kevin Page takes a shot at individuals "without and with" expertise in the subject matter. The four-page letter stresses that his analysis last week on the Old Age Security program, which the Harper government has called "unsustainable" and in a "crisis" due to aging baby boomers, is based on con-

cepts in use by the Congressional Budget Office in Washington and Britain's Office of Budget Responsibility.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, pictured, dismissed Page's assessment of OAS as "unbelievable, unreliable, in-



credible." As well, Conservatives in the Commons have pointed out that only a few months earlier Page had questioned Ottawa's long-term fiscal sustainability.

Page responded that weeks before his assessment on OAS, he had reversed his position on the sustainability of Ottawa's fiscal track. That was because on Dec. 19, the Harper government declared it would no longer increase health transfers at an annual six per cent rate, but would in the future tie growth to the economy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama's popularity up

- ▶ As economy improves, so have president's ratings
- ▶ Voter reaction to Republican nomination unknown

President Barack Obama's approval ratings are keeping pace with the improving U.S. economy, helped as well by the growing turmoil in the Republican contest for the nomination to challenge him in November.

While the Republicans fiercely battle one another, the president was expected to collect more than \$8 million from fundraising events that will take him from Los Angeles and San Francisco on Thursday to the Seattle area on Friday.

During a fundraising breakfast in a beach side community outside Los Angeles, Obama told about 125 donors that his 2008 campaign had brought with it "a sense of possibility" for moving the country in a new direction. "We've begun that process but the



▶ People hold up signs along the highway in the Corona del Mar section of Newport Beach, Calif., Thursday prior to the arrival of President Obama for a fundraiser.

journey is not complete," the president said.

Obama took in more than \$220 million in campaign contributions last year and is bolstering that funding base as the Repub-

lican presidential contest remains unsettled. California has been a mainstay of Democratic party fundraising and a reliably Democratic-voting state.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the polls

- ▶ The Gallup polling organization's latest daily tracking poll showed the president with equal approval and disapproval ratings of 45 per cent Wednesday.
- ▶ A New York Times/CBS poll released on Tuesday puts him in an even better place, with 50 per cent approval, although perceptions of his handling of the economy are still in negative territory, with just 44 per cent approving and 50 per cent not.
- ▶ The president's approval remains closely tied to the economy. It could easily be knocked off course by further financial tumult in Europe, a spike in oil prices, especially if Israel bombs Iranian nuclear facilities, or an increase in the U.S. unemployment rate.

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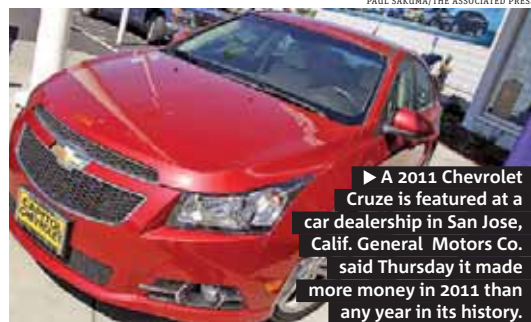
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No guarantee GM's 2012 will match historic 2011

► Record profits could mean expansion in Canada if sales keep growing



► A 2011 Chevrolet Cruze is featured at a car dealership in San Jose, Calif. General Motors Co. said Thursday it made more money in 2011 than any year in its history.

General Motors earned its biggest profit ever in 2011, but signs are emerging that its momentum could slow. Strong sales in the U.S. and China helped the car-

maker turn a profit of \$7.6 billion US, beating its old record of \$6.7 billion in 1997 during the pickup-truck and SUV boom. Yet the company lost

ground in the fourth quarter. Its profit fell eight per cent and missed Wall Street expectations. Europe and South America reported losses. And sales growth in the U.S. slowed even as more Americans bought cars and trucks.

Still, GM is a vastly different company than it was in the late 1990s. It's smaller, has less debt and its contract with the United Auto Workers is less costly. But it took a government bailout and bankruptcy protection

in 2009 to cut its bloated costs. The company made record money last year even though U.S. sales were near historic lows of 12.8 million cars and trucks.

This year, GM expects to increase its revenue as global sales grow and it charges more for models. However, it will make less money per vehicle as sales continue to shift to cars from trucks. It also expects to invest \$8 billion on new products and technology.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► This screen shot shows the msnNOW Discovery page.

MSN focusing on the here and NOW

Microsoft is hooking up MSN.com with a hipper sidekick to broaden its appeal and stay on top of the Internet's hottest topics. The trend-tracking service, called msnNOW, tunes in to the buzz by sifting through millions of Internet searches and links circulating among the hordes on Facebook and Twitter. The chatter is then

distilled into the equivalent of a digital water cooler — a place where people can go to keep in touch without taking up a lot of time. After months of development, the new feature debuts Thursday at now.msn.com. The service is aimed at young adults who are increasingly relying on smartphones.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plan for Greece debt not good enough: Diplomat

A European diplomat says current plans to help Greece with its debt load would still leave the country with debt of 129 per cent of economic output in 2020. That's far above the 120 per cent level that euro-zone leaders in October said was the maximum that could be considered sus-

tainable.

The diplomat says international debt inspectors estimate in a new report that Greece's promised austerity efforts, a 100-billion-euro debt relief from private investors and a 130-billion-euro bailout, fail to reduce the country's debt sufficiently. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THE METRO LIST

NEIL MORTON
METRO



1 Pinterest.com: It's the next Facebook or Twitter. Quietly but suddenly, this invite-only virtual pinboard where you "organize and share things you love" has exploded in popularity. It's still technically in beta, but is already one of the Top 10 social networks. Before you know it "pin" and "repin" will become as common terms as "tweet" and "retweet." You can "Like" it if you like.

2 Purple squirrel: Since a Pennsylvania couple discovered a purple squirrel in their backyard, the story has gone nuts on the Internet and a @purplsqr! Twitter account and Purple Squirrel Facebook page were started. A purple squirrel? For real? In related news, I think I saw a green chipmunk in my backyard. And a red bear. And a sasquatch.

3 Dare to wear red: Giving more meaning to the colour red this month, the Stephen Lewis Foundation dares Canadians to wear red and raise money to turn the tide of HIV-AIDS in Africa. The three top fundraisers by Feb. 29th will get to walk the runway at Toronto Fashion Week in March. Get more info at daretowearlove.com.

4 Tweet on Whitney Houston: A teenager on Twitter broke the news of Whitney's death a full 45 minutes before the mainstream media. The tweet, from @AjaDiorNavy, read thusly: "omgg , my aunt tiffany who work for whitney houston just found whitney houston dead in the tub . such ashame & sad :(" Further proof social media really has changed everything.

5 Linsanity: LeBron who? New York Knicks point guard Jeremy Lin has come out of nowhere to become one of the most exciting players in the NBA — and one of its biggest new brands. He has led the must-watch Knicks to seven straight wins, including a buzzer-beater in Toronto against the Raps this week. On Twitter, he's gained 200,000 followers in one week @jlin7. A sure sign he's made it.

6 What Makes You Happy: A magazine with one of the longest titles ever — What Makes You Happy — launched this month with comedian Rick Mercer on the cover. It will tackle "happy, inspiring, silly, important, useful and/or frivolous" articles addressing different aspects of happiness. If you don't read it, just listen to Don't Worry, Be Happy. Works like a charm.

7 Will & Kate Barbie dolls: To commemorate their one-year anniversary April 29th, Mattel announced this week it's releasing Will and Kate royal-wedding Barbie dolls. You can preorder the Barbie Collector Royal Wedding William and Catherine Doll Set on Amazon. I'm holding out for my Kim Kardashian and Reggie Bush dolls.

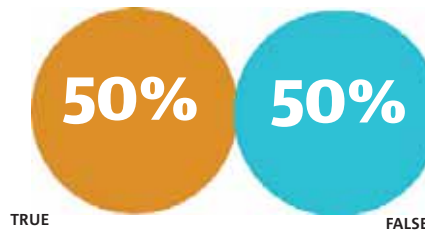
8 Justin Bieber: The Biebs made world headlines this week when he made a dying girl's wish come true. Six-year-old Avalanna Routh has a rare form of brain cancer and her dream was to meet Bieber, so he flew her and her parents to N.Y.C. on Monday for a private meeting where they hung out and played board games. Never say never.

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (@neilmorton).



Register at
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and take the quick poll

True or false: Once a cheater, always a cheater?



Local tweets



- ▶ **@AnthonyMartinNS:** It just occurred to me that with the death of Wheels, #halifax won't be able to get Zit Remedy to play the Commons ...
- ▶ **@lmschnare:** I think it's nice that people will throw themselves in front of the Access-a-buses - and bet the people waiting for them do too. #halifax
- ▶ **@KellyJenne:** The union's consideration of blocking the Access-a-Bus next week shows what they are truly about- and it is not the people #money #halifax
- ▶ **@evilpez4:** Transit Union head Ken Wilson's first worthy contribution to resolving #transitstrike would be submitting a resignation letter. #Halifax
- ▶ **@yellalemon:** With so many strikes going on/potentially beginning, Halifax looks less & less appealing.
- ▶ **@sarahmacellan:** It is seriously like spring in #Halifax right now!!
- ▶ **@DartmouthDerek:** Nice to see construction starting on the new downtown library. Great design & an exciting new hub for the city. @hfxpublib #Halifax

LIONEL CIRONEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Daily Zoom

When life gives you lemons...



... make a festival

Workers made a French castle with lemons and oranges during the 79th Lemon Festival in Menton, southern France, on Thursday. The theme for the festival, which involves over 300 workers and uses 145 tonnes of citrus fruit, is "Menton welcomes the Regions of France."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Everyone loves 'em

Parades are a regular part of the festival, which runs until March 7.

- ▶ **Golden Citrus Parade:** Floats and live marching band music
- ▶ **Moonlit Parade:** Drumbeats, fireworks and dancing
- ▶ **Citrus exhibition:** The Biovès Gardens exhibit giant sculptures

Celebrate citrus

To celebrate different regions of France, citrus displays depict different aspects of the country, such as the Eiffel Tower for Paris, pictured right. Menton grows several varieties of lemons. The Palais Carnolès, a two-hectare public garden in Menton, grows over 100 kinds of fruit. ● METRO





▶ The Artist



▶ The Descendants



▶ Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close



▶ Moneyball

HANDOUT

Synopsis

With just a few more sleeps until the biggest night in Hollywood, this week the Reel Guys breakdown the show; from the host to who should win and who will win best picture.


2
scene

Scene in brief



Once again Nicholas Cage turns up the heat as Johnny Blaze, the stunt biker who sacrifices his soul and becomes a fiery vigilante. This time he's hiding out in eastern Europe and joins a group of rebel monks to save a boy from the devil. Johnny Whitworth (of Empire Records fame) takes on the role of bad guy Ray Carrigan, who becomes Blackout.

METRO



Oprah Winfrey joins Jimmy Kimmel's post-Oscar special

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN



Oscars 'crystallized'

▶ Richard Crouse and Mark Breslin share their thoughts on Billy Crystal reprising his role as Oscar host ▶ And they place their bets on best picture

Richard: We talked about the Oscars a few weeks ago, but we didn't touch on Billy Crystal coming back as host. I loved the old Crystal shows, but really hope he finds a new fresh approach for this year. I'm not interested in seeing him do another opening montage where he inserts himself into the nominated footage. What do you, oh comedy guru, hope he does with the show?

Mark: Oh, Richard, you know he's gonna do it; this time in black and white, in flip-flops and silent. Those montage sequences are like a drug to him — his name is Crystal, after all. It'll be

old and hoary, but at least there will be some laughs. Of course, Billy's getting so old he'll have to turn his hearing aid up extremely loud and the teleprompter will have to be incredibly close. Your prediction on Best Picture, Richard?

RC: The Artist was the most fun I had at the movies last year but I'm not sure that means it deserves a best picture win. I think it will take it because it has won all the guild awards, but in my heart it's between Moneyball and Tree of Life. What's your choice?

MB: My choice is The Descendants, a movie of great

maturity and mid-tone emotion. I had considered it a shoo-in until recently, because I thought The Artist was original to the point of gimmickry. But now I think The Artist is going to take it. It's a movie I liked a lot, but it's not very subtle. As far as Tree of Life goes, I thought it was pretentious hooley. And I heard they used non-union dinosaurs.

RC: Pretentious hooley! I accept that the birth of the universe sequence separates the men from the film snobs, but I loved how evocative of childhood it was. It captured something deeply emotional, even

spiritual, whereas The Artist simply entertained the eye. The Descendants, for me, was a so-so movie with nice performances. Perhaps if Clooney had been working opposite a dinosaur I might have enjoyed it more.

MB: Yeah, I know, Tree of Life certainly has its fans. The divisive film I loved was Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close. I guess the childhood depicted in that picture — melancholic, guilt-ridden, borderline Aspergers — was evocative of my own. But it doesn't stand a chance to win the Oscar, and I've made my inner peace with that.



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Movies

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**The Secret World of Arrietty****Genre:** Animation**Director:** Hiromasa Yonebayashi**Stars:** Bridgit Mendler, Amy Poehler, Will Arnett

Already a hit in Asia, *The Secret World of Arrietty* makes its North American debut with a new voice cast — including Carol Burnett — but the gorgeous animation intact. The story of a young ailing boy who discovers tiny people living

beneath the floorboards of his house is gently-paced kid's entertainment.

The story unfurls slowly, scenes take their time to develop and the animation is classic, not frenetic. *Kung Fu Panda Part 2* this isn't. *The Secret World of Arrietty* may be a tad on the slow side for kids over the age of 10, but for the younger ones it's a wildly imaginative introduction to anime and fantasy storytelling.

● RICHARD CROUSE

**This Means War****Genre:** Comedy/Action**Director:** McG**Stars:** Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine, Tom Hardy

Sure to be one of the most contrived films of the year, *This Means War* features two buddy CIA operatives (Chris Pine, Tom Hardy) competing for the same woman (Reese Witherspoon). In short, the romantic-actioner is Bridget Jones' *Diary* meets *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* —

only its miles from being as watchable as either.

And as phony as the romance plays, the action doesn't add much lift to ease the pain. Full of lame set-ups and unbelievable situations (a government agent with a condo that would make Donald Trump jealous? Really?), this groaner doesn't hold an ounce of plausibility and concludes as disappointing as a box of rancid Valentine candy.

● STEVE GOW

**Monsieur Lazhar****Genre:** Drama/Comedy**Director:** Philippe Falardeau**Stars:** Fellag, Sophie Nélisse

Philippe Falardeau's Oscar-nominated drama about an Algerian immigrant (Fellag) who unexpectedly takes over a Montreal elementary school class is smoothly directed and beautifully

acted: the rapport between this unlikely educator and his charges is natural and unaffected. But the script, adapted from a play by Evelyne de la Chenelière, is a little too on-the-nose, resulting in a film that's at once completely accomplished and kind of an open-and-shut case.

● ADAM NAYMAN

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Ay, caramba! Simpsons mark another milestone

▶ Believe it or not, the 500th episode of Simpsons airs Sunday on Global

CASSANDRA GARRISON
SCENE@METRONWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

It's hard to believe that we've been hearing Bart Simpson say "Eat my

shorts" since 1989, but the world will be graced with the 500th episode of The Simpsons this Sunday on Global.

The episode, titled At Long Last Leave, will find the Simpsons driven out

of their beloved hometown of Springfield when their fellow neighbours finally give them the boot.

The Simpsons join a community from the other side of the tracks and make an unsuccessful at-

tempt to return to Springfield.

Look for a cameo from Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, as himself. A special feature song by Alison Krauss will also be included.

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Your faves...



What is your favourite Simpsons episode? Metro asked our readers and Twitter followers to send in their picks.



@Laur008: the one where Bart gets his fake license "that's it! Back to #Winnipeg" is a classic #Simpsons line.



@TaraLiane: Top 3: Deep Space Homer, Cape Feare, A Fish Called Selma



@elocin8: fave Simpson's episode: when Ralph gives Lisa a Valentine's "I choo-choo-choose you!" Super cute #simpsons>

WHERE DOES INDIE MUSIC GO FROM HERE?

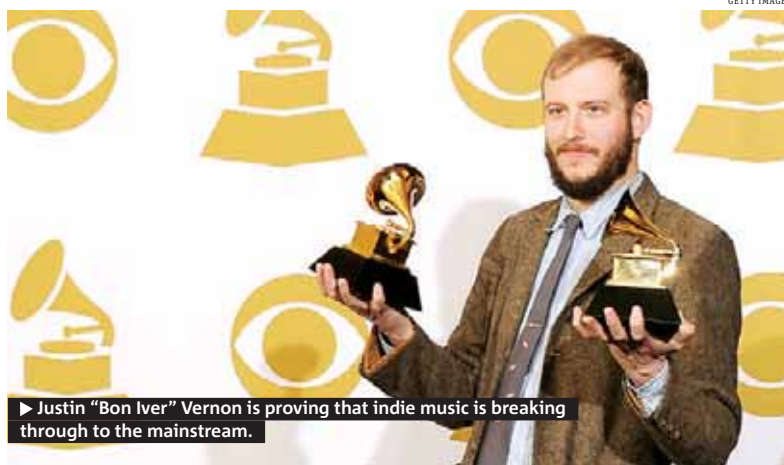
SOUND CHECK



ALAN CROSS
SCENE
@METRONEWS.CA

When Justin "Bon Iver" Vernon began writing his second album, he didn't set out to win a Grammy. Out there in Wisconsin, he simply wanted to document the feelings in his heart. Maybe a few people would be interested enough to buy his music and then come out to a gig or two.

Imagine, then, what must have been going through his mind last Sunday night. Vernon is about as indie as they come in sound, style, aesthetic, attitude, history and image. His two wins at the Grammys demonstrate how, af-



▶ Justin "Bon Iver" Vernon is proving that indie music is breaking through to the mainstream.

ter years of being on the outside, indie music is now receiving mainstream attention.

And let's not forget that Adele is an indie artist. Yes, 21 is distributed by Columbia Records, a division of Sony, but she's signed to XL Recordings,

which is a department of Beggars Banquet, a British indie label with roots that go back to 1973.

For those who thought last year's Grammys was a fluke — wins by Arcade Fire and the ascent of Mumford & Sons to platinum-selling status — are

either really pleased or really scared by these developments. Pleased because these great artists are having a chance to be heard by more people. Scared because mainstream attention threatens to have the clubby indie scene invaded by

Indie folk — and here I'm speaking as one of them — feel, rightly or wrongly, a certain sense of ownership when it comes to the artists we discover and nurture.

mainstream people.

Indie folk — and here I'm speaking as one of them — feel, rightly or wrongly, a certain sense of ownership when it comes to the artists we discover and nurture. We root for them to become big — but not too big because that would somehow sour our relationship with them. We'd prefer if they'd just stay our little secret.

If, heaven forbid, they became commercial stars and relegated to premiere

league status, wouldn't that make them no better than the dreckish Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga? No, the band hasn't changed; it just that, well, circumstances are different. Share? Us? No!

It's silly, of course, but that's often the prevailing attitude.

One of the best lyric fragments comes from the Sloan song Coax Me. It goes "It's not the band I hate/it's their fans." So far, artists like Arcade Fire and Bon Iver have managed to retain their indie cred despite being commercially successful. Will their old fans stick with them? Or will they bail in favour of something newer, cooler and less popular? We'll see.

ALAN IS THE HOST OF THE RADIO SHOW THE SECRET HISTORY OF ROCK. REACH HIM AT ALAN@ALANCROSS.CA



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'I promise I won't beat you'

► Chris Brown has an awful new pick-up line, according to Us Weekly

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Here's the thing about Chris Brown and The Word: Yes, he brutally beat his then-girlfriend Rihanna in 2009.

But the man served the sentence our judicial system thought was fair and so he should be allowed to get on with his life and music without a stupid gossip columnist dredging it up all the time.

My prerogative is that we all know he's a cowardly woman beater. Do with that information what you will.

Except the idiot continues to open his big mouth and make jokes about domestic violence and so, sorry, I can't drop it.



► Chris Brown

According to Us Weekly, Brown has a totally romantic new pick-up line. A woman tells the magazine

that Brown approached her on Feb. 10 at the Grammy gift lounge to ask for her number.

"Can I get your number? I promise I won't beat you," the woman said Brown told her.

"He and his friends laughed, then one yelled, 'That's his new line!' she said. 'I wanted to throw up.'"

There are many ways I would like to respond to this stupid, hurtful and awful running joke of Brown's but I don't have the space. I'll just say: It is my sincere hope that one day Chris Brown has a daughter and maybe, just maybe, he will feel sick at the thought of any man laying a hand on her. And then he will finally realize just what a terrible thing he did in his past and will finally know that making flippant asides about beating women is not OK.

But somehow, even then, I don't think he'll get it.

Celebrity tweets



my house has become a soup kitchen for wayward Raccoons...now serving 8 of em twice a day...just in case ur missing them, there over here



@kirstiealley

man cheats on wife, marries his mistress, runs for president and gets an ovation for being insane...only in amerisicka

@Billy



@Joan_Rivers

It's times like these that you wish Manolo Blahnik made a wading boot.



@ConanOBrien

What will become of the SkyMall catalogue when there are actually malls in the sky?

Angelina gets death threats

Angelina Jolie and the actors who star in her directorial debut, In the Land of Blood and Honey, have been receiving death threats over the film's content, according to The Guardian.

"There were things sent to me, there were things posted online," Jolie says. "The cast have never complained to me about these threats but I've heard

through other people it was happening. One of them did have their windows smashed in on their cars and someone else had an issue when their phone was hacked and emails were sent out saying they were from them and saying they had been hurt."

● METRO



Angelina Jolie

Just what was Whitney on?

In the investigation into what exactly caused Whitney Houston's death, investigators are reportedly interviewing the late singer's doctors about what

sort of medications had been prescribed, according to the Associated Press.

"We've already contacted a number of doctors with requests for records," a

coroner's official confirms, adding that such a move is common in investigations such as this one.

The move brings to mind the investigation into

Michael Jackson's death, which resulted in his doctor, Conrad Murray, being convicted on manslaughter charges.

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More than beads



After Carnival season wraps, many New Orleans locals give up their favourite foods for Lent. That makes Mardi Gras a great time to consume everything from gumbo and fried chicken to crawfish and pork chops, topped with King Cake and washed down with beer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sweet taste of New Orleans:
Recipe for Praline Beignets
with Café au Lait Icing.

In the name of tradition



PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

You have to love a celebration that can combine beads, boobs and beverages, and still stay classy. OK, while Mardi Gras may not be the textbook example of class, it certainly is a world-renowned party.

Many revellers wandering the streets of New Orleans during the festivities will be enjoying a Hurricane — the city's hallmark cocktail.

Invented in the 1940s by French Quarter bar owner Pat O'Brien, it's a mix of rum and fruit juices served in a glass resembling a hurricane lamp.

The recipe is simple to make:

- 1 oz white rum
- 1 oz dark rum
- 2 oz passion fruit juice
- 1 oz orange juice
- ½ oz fresh lime juice
- 1 tbsp simple syrup
- 1 tbsp grenadine
- 1 orange slice & cherry

Shake all the ingredients together with ice and strain into an ice-filled glass. Garnish with the cherry and orange slice.

My alternative version adds half an ounce of Bacardi 151° Overproof Amber Rum (\$34.99 - \$44.95) to the mix. It kicks the drink into overdrive. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**



Beads, booze and jambalaya

► New Orleans' Mardi Gras celebrations take place on Tuesday ► If you can't get there, enjoy a taste from home with this Southern favourite

This bowl full of colour and flavour is made even better with the addition of catfish.

The jambalaya should be thick. If it's too thin, simmer it uncovered until some liquid evaporates.

Preparation:

- 1** In a Dutch oven or a wide saucepan heat oil over

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
- ½ lb (250 g) mild or hot Italian sausage, cut into 1/2-inch (1-cm) pieces
- ½ lb (250 g) smoked ham or kielbasa, cut into 1-inch (2.5-cm) pieces
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 celery stalk, chopped
- 1 large green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 cups (1L) low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 can (28 oz/796 mL) diced tomatoes
- 1 ½ tsp (7 mL) thyme
- ½ tsp (2 mL) basil leaves
- 1 tsp (5 mL) each dried oregano leaves and hot pepper sauce
- 1 ½ cups (375 mL) uncooked long-grain rice
- 2 lbs (1 kg) Catfish fillets, cut into pieces about 1 ½ - inches (3.5-cm)
- Salt to taste



**Mardi
Gras
Catfish
Jambalaya**

U.S. FARM-RAISED CATFISH

► The recipe serves six to eight people.

medium heat. Add sausage and cook until lightly browned. Add ham, onion, celery, green pepper and garlic, cook, stirring for about 8 to 10 minutes.

- 2** Stir in broth, tomatoes, herbs and hot pepper sauce. Bring to boil. Add rice. Cover and simmer, 15 minutes or until rice is partially cooked. Stir in catfish pieces and bring back to simmer. Cover

and cook 15 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork and rice is tender. Remove from heat; cover and let stand for 5 minutes. Add salt to taste before serving.

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DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
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These little bite-size treats are perfect to share with friends.

To make them a bit different you can pour the batter into pre-baked mini tartlet shells and bake for a cupcake tart. They're actually not too sweet and a touch of whipped cream on top is

the perfect finish!

Preparation:

1 In a large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and soda; set aside.

2 In another small bowl, whisk together buttermilk, butter, egg,

food colouring and vanilla. Pour over flour mix and whisk until smooth and combined.

3 Divide batter among greased or paper-lined mini muffin tin and bake in 350 F (180 C) oven for about 15 minutes or until tester comes out

clean. Remove from pan and let cool completely on rack. Top with whipped cream and serve.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND CELEBRITY TV CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDS-COOKS.CA.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) sifted cake and pastry flour
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL)

- unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each baking powder and baking soda
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) buttermilk
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) butter, melted

- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) red food colouring
- 1 tsp (5 mL) pure vanilla extract
- Whipped cream



► This recipe makes 24 cupcakes.

The one pot wonder

► Get lighter mac & cheese on the table in 20 minutes

Rather than relying on highly processed packaged mac and cheese, this lightened-up version of the traditional favourite is sure to become a mainstay in your repertoire.

It also allows you to provide the kids with an added benefit by trying out whole-grain pastas or

ones made with vegetables. You can make this dinner quickly as prep time is five minutes and cooking time is 15 minutes.

Preparation:

1 In a large pot of boiling, salted water,

cook the pasta for about 6 minutes or until just tender but firm (al dente).

2 Meanwhile, in a blender, food processor or in a tall container using an immersion blender, combine the cheese, milk, flour, mus-

Ingredients:

- 250 g (8 oz) elbow macaroni or small pasta shells (approx 500 mL/2 cups)
- 500 mL (2 cups) shredded

- old or extra-old cheddar cheese
- 375 mL (1 1/2 cups) milk
- 30 mL (2 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- 2 mL (1/2 tsp) dry or Dijon

- mustard
- 1 mL (1/4 tsp) freshly ground black pepper
- Pinch ground nutmeg
- Hot pepper sauce (optional)

tard, pepper and nutmeg. Process the mixture until it is blended and fairly smooth.

3 When the pasta is ready, drain it well and return to the pot. Add the cheese mixture. Cook over medium

heat, stirring constantly, for about 5 minutes or until the sauce is creamy, smooth and thick.

4 Season to taste, if desired, with hot pepper sauce. Garnish with extra cheddar cheese, if

desired. Serve.
THE CANADIAN PRESS/ DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA/
ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (EMILY IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDS-COOKS.CA.)

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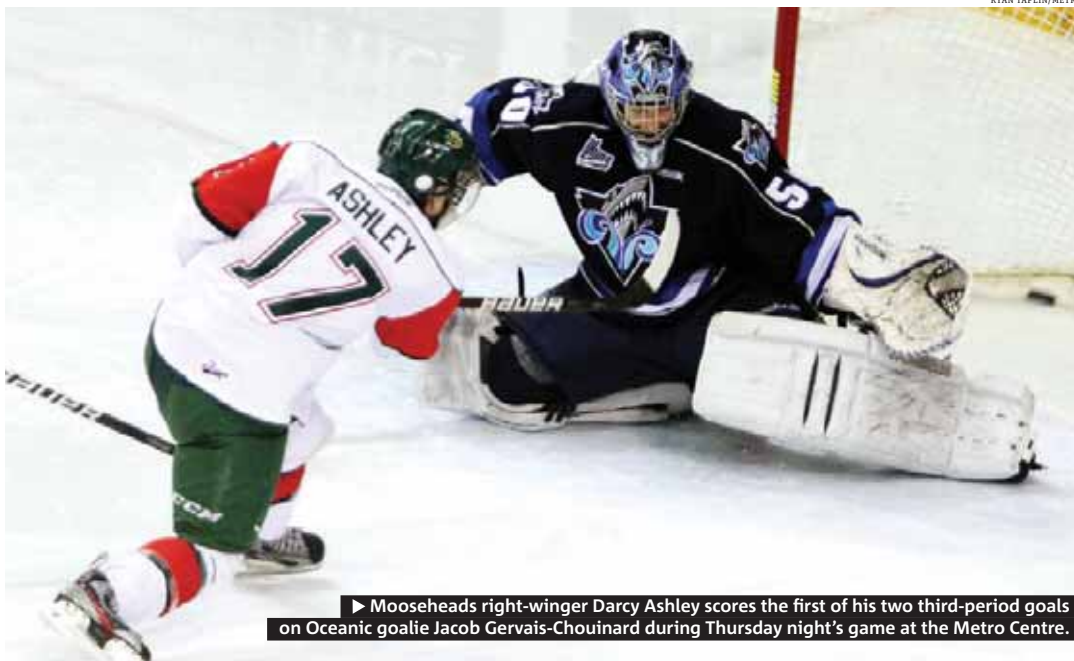
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► Mooseheads (30-18-6) move from eighth overall to tie for sixth after home win over Rimouski ► Oceanic win would have put sixth spot four points out of reach ► Run of 3-1-1 has helped Halifax shake earlier 4-6-2 slump



► Mooseheads right-winger Darcy Ashley scores the first of his two third-period goals on Oceanic goalie Jacob Gervais-Chouinard during Thursday night's game at the Metro Centre.

Moose lose MacKinnon in big win



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

In a span of less than five minutes, the Halifax Mooseheads scored four goals and assured themselves two important points — but lost No. 1 scorer Nathan MacKinnon to a thumb injury.

The Mooseheads blew open a 1-1 game early in the third period with a four-goal explosion in a four-minute, 28-second stretch to post a 5-3 victory over the Rimouski Oceanic at the Metro Centre on Thursday.

While the win pushed the Mooseheads into a tie for sixth in the QMJHL, MacKinnon left the game wincing in pain and didn't play the final 15 minutes after blocking a shot with his left hand. He was headed for X-rays immediately

after the game.

"At least it's the (bottom) part of his thumb," said head coach Dominique Ducharme. "It's bruised, a little bit swollen. The good thing is (it's not) the upper part."

The Mooseheads, up 2-1 when MacKinnon left the ice, didn't miss a beat without him, opening the floodgates after two periods of offensive frustration.

They'd misfired on five

straight power-play attempts and had beaten Oceanic goaltender Jacob Gervais-Chouinard only once on 25 shots through 40 minutes.

Darcy Ashley was the catalyst, scoring his 19th and 20th goals of the season at 2:32 and 5:23, ripping home both goals off great shots — one via a feed from Konrad Abeltshauser and another off a bad Oceanic turnover. Ash-

ley had just one goal — an empty-netter — in seven previous games.

"My theory was just keep shooting and eventually they'll go in," said Ashley, who had six shots and was the game's first star. "Not even looking, just shooting the puck, and good things will happen."

Andrew Ryan, the third star, had a goal and an assist, Jonathan Drouin had two helpers and goalie Zach Fucile stopped 16 of 19 shots.

The Mooseheads host the Victoriaville Tigres on Friday and visit the Bathurst Titan on Sunday.

"We want to keep building on tonight and go into (Friday's) game knowing we can win," Ashley said. "We beat Victo up there (2-1 in a shootout last Sunday) so it's just a matter of coming to the rink and being ready to play."

Hannay injury



The Halifax Mooseheads updated the status of veteran defenceman Sawyer

Hannay on Thursday and have confirmed he has a concussion.

- The 19-year-old Vancouver Canucks draft pick, one of the team's ice-time leaders, will miss at least another week and probably longer.
- Hannay has two assists, a minus-4 rating and 89 penalty minutes in 47 games.

Rainmen's last chance to solve Lightning

The Halifax Rainmen will get one last regular-season crack at the London Lightning on Sunday.

The Rainmen, who host the top team in the National Basketball League of Canada at 4 p.m. at the Metro Centre, are 0-5 against the Lightning and are coming into the big game on a season-worst three-game losing streak.

Odds are, the only way the two teams will meet again is if they both qualify for the NBL Canada final.

"I really want to play London," said Rainmen head coach Josep (Pep) Claros. "I think the best way to show if you are good, if you are tough, is to play with the best, in a situation where you can show how tough you are."

London (24-6) has outscored Halifax by an average of more than 11 points in the five meetings.

The Rainmen (17-11) have just eight games remaining in the regular season.

Tickets for Sunday's Rainmen game will also be valid for entry into the noon Atlantic University Sport men's basketball matchup between the Dalhousie Tigers and Cape Breton Capers at the Metro Centre.

● MATTHEW WUEST

Roster cuts



The Halifax Rainmen cut shooting guard Darrin Dorsey on Thursday in advance of Friday's NBL Canada transaction deadline.

- Dorsey was one of just three Rainmen to appear in all 28 games with the team but he had a limited role, averaging just 14.3 minutes and five points per game.

Seattle arena a bid to land NHL, NBA

Christopher Hansen is making a \$290-million US proposal that could be the impetus for a new sports arena that could bring the NBA and NHL to Seattle.

All he needs is city and county approval equaling \$200 million and two franchises to make it a reality.

Hansen, a hedge-fund manager based in San Francisco and a Seattle native, submitted a proposal to the city on Thursday that calls for \$290 million in private investment toward the construction of a new arena that would cost between \$450 and \$500 million. Hansen and his investment group would be responsible for the purchase of an NBA franchise and finding a partner to bring an NHL franchise to Seattle as well.

The proposal is the first significant step toward solving the arena problem that was at the root of the SuperSonics' move from Seattle to Oklahoma City in 2008.

The proposal will now go before a review board with King County executive Dow Constantine hoping it can be completed within a month.

According to a letter submitted by Hansen, remaining construction and development costs would be financed by the city and King County using taxes and revenues generated by the new facility and rent charged to teams playing in the arena.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Gary Carter is mobbed by fans in Montreal in July 1983.

Expos legend Gary Carter dies at 57

► Revered Hall of Fame catcher was diagnosed with brain tumour last May

Gary Carter was nicknamed "Kid" for good reason.

His smile, bubbly personality and eagerness to excel on a ballfield made him a joy to watch.

Even his Hall of Fame bronze plaque at Cooperstown shows him with a toothy grin — the Kid forever.

The star catcher, the first player enshrined in the Hall of Fame wearing an Expos cap, died Thursday. He was 57.

Mets spokesman Jay Horwitz said Carter died in the West Palm Beach, Fla., area. Carter was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour last May, two weeks

"Driven by a remarkable enthusiasm for the game, Gary Carter became one of the elite catchers of all-time."

MLB COMMISSIONER BUD SELIG

after finishing his second season as coach at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

"I am deeply saddened to tell you all that my precious dad went to be with Jesus today at 4:10 p.m.," Carter's daughter Kimmy Bloemers wrote on the family website. "This is the most difficult thing I have ever had to

9

Overall, Gary Carter hit .262 with 324 home runs and 1,225 RBIs. He set the MLB record for putouts by a catcher, a testament to his durability despite nine knee operations.

In all, Carter played nearly two decades with the Expos, Mets, San Francisco Giants and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

He was an 11-time all-star and three-time Gold Glove winner whose 10th-inning single in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series helped the Mets mount a charge against the Red Sox and eventually beat them.

"His nickname 'the Kid' captured how Gary approached life," the Mets said in a statement. "He did everything with enthusiasm and with gusto.... He was a Hall of Famer in everything he did."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

write in my entire life but I wanted you all to know."

Carter started his career with the Expos late in the 1974 season and was the face of the franchise in his 12 seasons with the team. He led Montreal to its only playoff berth in 1981.

Sharks, Bolts strike deal before game-time

The small list of NHL teams willing to sell off assets at the trade deadline grew by one on Thursday.

The Tampa Bay Lightning sent centre Dominic Moore and a seventh-round draft pick this year to the San Jose Sharks for a 2012 second-round pick. The trade was announced just before the Sharks faced the Lightning.

"Dominic is an extremely versatile player that has performed in a lot of important playoff games the last two years," San Jose general manager Doug Wilson said in a statement. "We feel that he is a great fit in several areas and his veteran presence will benefit our team greatly."

Tampa Bay GM Steve Yzerman announced earlier Thursday that he was also working on a deal involving veteran defenceman Pavel Kubina.

"We've decided to protect our interest and keep Pavel off the ice until the situation is resolved," Yzerman told reporters in Tampa.

Entering Thursday's game, Tampa was 10 points back of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

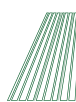
The Lightning join a list of teams willing to trade players ahead of the Feb. 27 trade deadline. Columbus, Edmonton and Carolina are among the others looking to make moves with an eye on the future.

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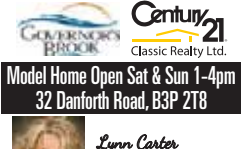
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Open Houses



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Public Auctions

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Owner of Goods:

Killick Fisheries Inc.
201 St. Charles, Voudreuil Dorion
Quebec J7V 2L4

Address of Sale:

Nova Cold Consolidated Limited
71 Thornhill Drive
Dart., N.S. B3B 1R9

Mail bids to Nova Cold Consolidated Limited
Date of Sale: February 24, 2012 10:00 am

Description of Goods:

Lot #21748 - Mackerel packed
20 kg/case (7 cases)
Lot #21749 - Mackerel packed
10 kg/case (880 cases)
Lot #20198 - Capelin packed
20 kg/case (616 cases)
Lot #20330 - Male Capelin packed
10 kg/case (41 cases)

For more info please call 902-468-1348

GARAGE/YARD SALES

Garage/Yard Sales

Moving Out Sale
Sunday Feb 19th
12:30pm to 4:30pm
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Garage/Yard Sales

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SOLD! SELLER SAVED \$10,792.75
295 Sheppard's Run, Beechville **SOLD JANUARY 2012**



SOLD! SELLER SAVED \$4,401.63
8 Peverell Court, Halifax **SOLD DECEMBER 2011**



SOLD! SELLER SAVED \$8,285.75
54 Collins Grove, Dartmouth **SOLD JANUARY 2012**



SOLD! SELLER SAVED \$3,941.63
52 Weyburn Drive, Dartmouth **SOLD JANUARY 2012**



SOLD! SELLER SAVED \$8,515.75
3606 Deal Street, Halifax **SOLD JANUARY 2012**



SOLD! SELLER SAVED \$2,951.48
87 Smokey Dr, Lower Sackville **SOLD FEBRUARY 2012**



SOLD! SELLER SAVED \$4,374.31
12 Ridgeview Dr, Lower Sackville **SOLD FEBRUARY 2012**



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General Services

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For those without a Metro, the forecast calls for "I dunno" with a slight chance of "huhhh?"





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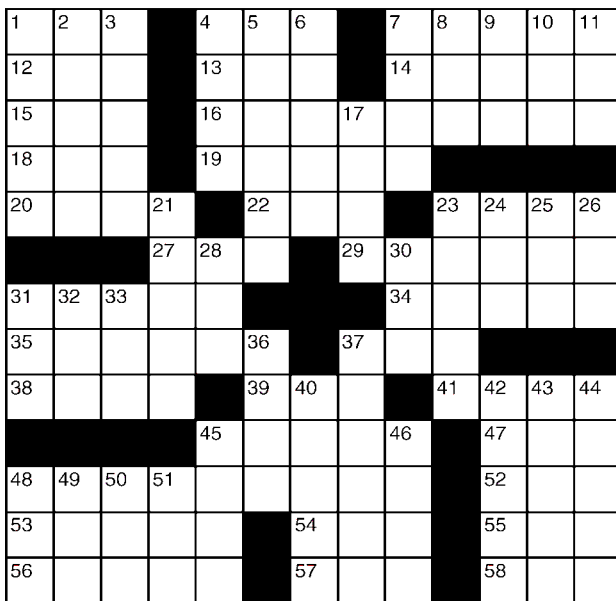
Crossword

Across

1 Sort
4 Part of UCLA
7 Rice, on a Mexican menu
12 Army rank (Abbr.)
13 Raw rock
14 007 portrayer
15 Debtor's letters
16 Zodiac sign
18 Small salamander
19 14-Across, e.g.
20 Bronx cheer
22 Long, crosser
23 Long story
27 Lamb's dam
29 Hostage taker
31 Spry
34 Neat
35 Per — income
37 A Bobsey Twin
38 Trudge
39 Personal question?
41 T, in Morse code
45 Handles
47 Meadow
48 Toy shooter
52 Rowing need
53 Eye-related
54 Tokyo's old name
55 Storefront sign abbr.
56 Practical joke
57 Caustic solution
58 Fire residue

Down

1 Less friendly
2 Bath sponge
3 Inept one
4 "Livin' la Vida —"
5 Soothsayer
6 Partitions that may be "deviated"



7 Eastern bigwig (Var.)

8 Sinbad's bird
9 Aussie hopper
10 Boston rink legend
11 Buddhist sect
17 Campus mil. org.
21 Chameleonlike
Woody Allen character

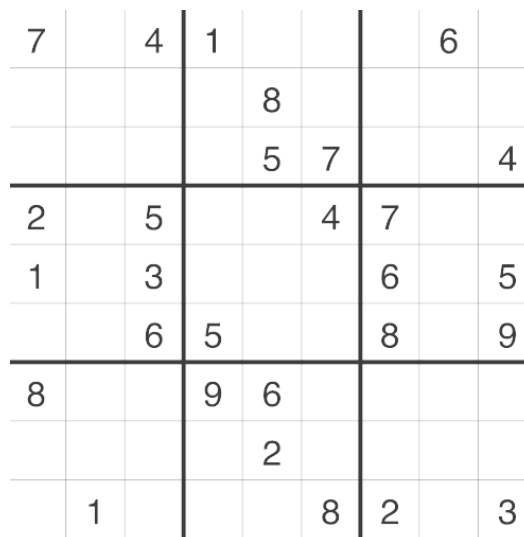
23 Shell out
24 \$ dispenser
25 Dems' rivals
26 Illustrations
28 Drench
30 Alias abbr.
31 Rm. coolers

32 Lassie
33 NYSE debut
36 Botanical bristles
37 Nary a soul
40 Monopoly building
42 Wahine's welcome
43 Big name in mail order
44 Coarse
45 Break (a habit)
46 — gin fizz
48 Police officer
49 Spring mo.
50 Bake sale grp.
51 Wrestling victory

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

► Yesterday's answer

5	1	3	6	9	2	8	7	4
4	8	7	3	1	5	9	6	2
6	9	2	4	7	8	3	1	5
9	2	1	7	8	6	5	4	3
7	5	4	1	2	3	6	8	9
8	3	6	9	5	4	7	2	1
1	6	8	5	4	9	2	3	7
3	4	9	2	6	7	1	5	8
2	7	5	8	3	1	4	9	6

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Brani, I love you more than anything in the world! Be my wife and let's be happy!
TONI

Dear Chris, you made my life brighter. We used to chat in the stairs, we used to laugh together, drink wine together, lie on your bed and talk all night long, can't stop thinking about you :(I know you had a crush on this other girl (I told you I think she's a total loser...anyways...) and I'm super shy, so I didn't make any move or didn't express my feelings so far...but now I haven't heard from you since you're back from your lil trip. Whatever happens between us, I just want to tell you I love you. YOUR LONG
TIME FAN

To my pet, I'm eagerly to see u at terminal and main at 11am I'll be there until 1230.come to see me.
MCDONALD

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20

Someone whose views you disagree with profoundly will play a huge role in your life over the next few weeks. You need each other.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21

When the Sun changes signs on Sunday, you'll be back to your old self again. Between now and then, prepare for some fireworks.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21

The Sun is about to cross the career angle of your chart, which suggests you will be in the spotlight.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 According to the planets, you'll start something new over the next few weeks. Don't waste your resources.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23

You are on the verge of something big, but you don't need to force the situation. Let success come to you.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Cosmic activity in your opposite sign makes it appear as if you're losing control. Stop trying to hold on to what you no longer need.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

The Sun's imminent move into the well-being area of your chart makes it a good time to take stock of your chores and responsibilities.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

You will get no end of opportunities between now and the end of the month to make your mark.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21

What's missing in your life will become apparent over the next few days. Once it does, all you have to do is go out and get it.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

If someone offers you something for nothing, they probably just like you and want to make you happy.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Wait until the Sun leaves your sign on the weekend before making a decision about a money matter.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 A new solar year begins on Sunday and it promises to be one in which your dreams start coming true.

© SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

DAVID GUTTENFELDER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CRAIG RUTTLE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



You write it!

WIN! Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Tuesday's Metro.

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SONATA GL 6-SPEED.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION
INCLUDED.

**5.7L/100 KM
50 MPG***

2012 SONATA

Most fuel-efficient full-size car³



Limited model shown

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FOR UP TO
90 DAYS

WITH
\$0
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PAYMENT

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DELIVERY & DESTINATION
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**7.7L/100 KM
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¹The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ²Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2012 Elantra L 6-Speed/2012 Accent L 5DR 6-Speed/2012 Elantra Touring L 5-Speed/2012 Sonata GL 6-Speed/2012 Santa Fe GL 2.4 6-Speed with an annual finance rate of 1.9%/2.65%/0%/0%/0%. For 72/84/84/84 months. Bi-weekly payment is \$118/\$91/\$96/\$134. No down payment is required. Cost of borrowing is \$1,014/\$1,451/\$80/\$0/\$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of \$1,495/\$1,495/\$1,565/\$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charges include freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Finance Example: 2012 Elantra L 6-Speed for \$17,344 at 1.9% per annum equals \$118 bi-weekly for 72 months for a total obligation of \$17,344. Cash price is \$17,344. Cost of borrowing is \$1,014. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of \$1,495. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charges include freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. 100 payments for up to 90 days (payment deferral) is available on all new in-stock 2011 or 2012 Hyundai models except Equus and Niosster and only applies to purchase finance offers on approved credit. If payment deferral is selected the original term of the contract will be extended by 2-months/56-days for monthly/bi-weekly finance contracts. Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. will pay the interest of the deferral for the first 2-months/56-days of the monthly/bi-weekly finance contract. After this period interest will start to accrue and the purchaser will pay the principal and interest monthly/bi-weekly over the remaining term of the contract. ³Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ⁴Fuel economy comparison based on combined fuel consumption rating for the 2012 Accent L 6-Speed manual (Hwy 4.9L/100KM), City 6.8L/100KM/2012 Accent L 5DR 6-Speed (Hwy 4.9L/100KM), City 6.7L/100KM/2012 Elantra L 6-Speed manual (Hwy 4.9L/100KM), City 6.7L/100KM/2012 Elantra L 6-Speed (Hwy 4.9L/100KM), City 6.7L/100KM/2012 Santa Fe GL 2.4 6-Speed Manual (Hwy 7.7L/100KM), City 11.0L/100KM are based on Etequid. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ⁵Options available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited. Dealer order may be required. Based on the December 2011 AJAC report. ⁶Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.